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Serial No. 10/585,785
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. Cancelled

2. (Currently Amended) A method of generating caricatured images, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

storing image representations of subjects and corresponding respective caricatured image representations of the subjects;

receiving an image representation of a new subject; and

generating replacement caricatured image representations of the subjects in dependence on the stored image representations thereof and the received image representation of the new subject.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, and further comprising the step of generating a caricatured image representation of the new subject in dependence on the

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stored image representations of the subjects and the received image representation of the new subject.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the generating steps comprise generating the caricatured image representation/s in weighted dependence on the received image representation of the new subject, wherein a weighting factor associated with the new image representation generally increases with time, and the caricature image representations are re-generated each time the weighting factor is adapted.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[1]] 2, wherein the subjects form a closed group of subjects, and the method is performed whenever a new subject joins the closed group.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of generating caricatured images, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

storing image representations of subjects and corresponding respective caricatured image representations of the subjects;

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receiving a leave signal indicating a particular one or more of the subjects for which image representations are stored; and

generating replacement caricatured image representations in dependence on the stored image representations of the subjects at least partially discounting the image representations of the indicated subjects.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the image representations of the indicated subjects are generally increasingly discounted over time in accordance with a weighting factor, wherein the caricature image representations are re-generated each time the weighting factor is adapted.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the subjects form a closed group of subjects, and the method is performed whenever one or more of the subjects leave the closed group.

9. (Currently Amended) A tangible storage medium containing a computer program or suite of computer programs arranged such that when ~~it/they are~~ executed by a computer system ~~it/they cause/s~~ causes the computer system to perform the method of claim [[1]] 2.

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10. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program or at least one of the suite of computer programs which, when executed by a computer, effects the method according to claim [[9]] 6.

11. Cancelled

12. (Currently Amended) A system for generating caricatured images, said system comprising:

storage means arranged in use to store image representations of subjects and corresponding respective caricatured image representations of the subjects;

input means for receiving an image representation of a new subject; and

processing means arranged in use to generate replacement caricatured image representations of the subjects in dependence on the stored image representations thereof and the received image representation of the new subject.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein the processing means is further arranged to generate a caricatured image representation of the new subject in

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dependence on the stored image representations of the subjects and the received image representation of the new subject.

14. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[11]] 12, wherein the processing means is further arranged to generate the caricatured image representation/s in weighted dependence on the received image representation of the new subject, wherein a weighting factor associated with the new image representation generally increases with time, and the caricature image representations are re-generated each time the weighting factor is adapted.

15. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[11]] 12, wherein the subjects form a closed group of subjects, and the system is operated whenever a new subject joins the closed group.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for generating caricatured images, said system comprising :

storage means arranged in use to store image representations of subjects and corresponding respective caricatured image representations of the subjects;

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means for receiving a leave signal indicating a particular one or more of the subjects for which image representations are stored; and

processing means arranged in use to generate replacement caricatured image representations in dependence on the stored image representations of the subjects but at least partially discounting the image representations of the indicated subjects.

17. (Original) A system, according to claim 16, wherein the image representations of the indicated subjects are generally increasingly discounted over time in accordance with a weighting factor, wherein the caricature image representations are re-generated each time the weighting factor is adapted.

18. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 16, wherein the subjects form a closed group of subjects, and the system is operated whenever one or more of the subjects leave the closed group.

19. (New) A method of generating caricatured facial images for a group of different persons to be concurrently displayed, said method comprising:

storing a first facial image for each of a group of persons;

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generating and storing a second facial image for each of said group of persons, said second image being a caricatured image respectively corresponding to a said first facial image;

receiving a new first facial image for a new person not currently a member of said group;

generating and storing a replacement set of caricatured second facial images for the persons already in the group and the new person as a function of their corresponding first facial images; and

displaying said replacement set of caricatured second facial images to represent a new group of persons now including said new person.

20. (New) A method as in claim 19, wherein said generating of caricatured facial images utilizes a caricature weighting factor which increases as a function of the number of persons included in the group.

21. (New) A method as in claim 19, wherein, when a person leaves the group, the method further comprises:

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generating and storing another replacement set of caricatured second facial images for the persons left remaining in the group as a function of their corresponding first facial images; and

displaying said another replacement set of caricatured second facial images to represent the remaining group of persons.

22. (New) A method as in claim 21, wherein said generating of caricatured facial images utilizes a caricature weighting factor which increases as a function of the number of persons included in the group.

23. (New) A tangible storage medium containing computer program code which, when executed by a computer, effects the method of claim 19.